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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(Item 3 (b) (ii))

Programme 28
Safety and security

1. At its 17th meeting, on 9 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 28)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Department of Safety and Security for the safe deployment of United Nations staff, especially in peacekeeping missions, where a growing number of incidents affecting civilian staff and peacekeepers presented a major concern in high-risk and multi-risk locations. Delegations welcomed the professionalism and effectiveness demonstrated by the Department, including in coordinating visits of high-level dignitaries to Headquarters and organizing conferences, as well as in the course of security assistance visits.

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4. Emphasis was placed on effective cooperation and coordination with host authorities to ensure the safety and security of personnel working in the field, including through the exchange of information with local governments and communities. While recognizing that technology contributed to mitigating some risks, it was stressed that the most effective way to protect the Organization was to maintain effective relationships with local communities and host Governments, given their advanced understanding of the local security situation. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether specific processes or platforms existed for information exchanges between the Department and Member States, both in the field and at Headquarters, and it was suggested that the availability of such processes or platforms should be incorporated into the framework in the form of an indicator of achievement.

5. Regarding subprogramme 1, Security and safety coordination, clarification was sought on the provision for minimum operating security standards, as reflected in indicator of achievement (i) under expected accomplishment (a), including on the nature of those standards, the potential of broader-scope planning and how those standards contributed to an adequate security environment.

6. Regarding subprogramme 2, Regional field operation coordination, questions were raised concerning the deployment of support to the United Nations Security Management Team, as reflected in indicator of achievement (iii) under expected accomplishment (b), including how that indicator would be assessed and what the role of the countries concerned would be.

7. Regarding subprogramme 3, Field support, appreciation was expressed for indicator of achievement (i) under expected accomplishment (a), measuring the percentage of staff and their families in the high-risk duty stations in the field that received stress-management training. Information was sought on how United Nations staff were prepared for threats in tough and dangerous conditions and on what was being done to reassure personnel that they were safe. A question was raised as to what the Department intended to do to improve the code of conduct for staff working in the field. Reference was made to the contribution of technological modernization to ensuring the security of personnel, sites, transport and other areas, including by providing clear warnings of impending threats.

8. It was pointed out that, throughout the programme, the words "safety and security" and "security and safety" were used interchangeably, with the view expressed that the text would benefit from a consistent use of the same formulation.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.**